

By Express Mail # EV329599513US

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A housing arrangement for a friction clutch having a direction of rotation about an
2 axis, said housing arrangement comprising a housing in the form of a cup having a
3 bottom transverse to said axis and a circumferential edge area defining an interior, said
4 housing having at least one air opening in said bottom, each said through-opening
5 being bounded by a front edge and a rear edge with respect to said direction of rotation,
6 said front edge being axially offset toward said interior with respect to said rear edge.

1 2. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said bottom has an exterior surface
2 opposite from said interior, said exterior surface sloping down toward said interior at
3 said front edge.

1 3. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said bottom has an interior surface
2 facing said interior, said interior surface rising upward toward said rear edge.

1 4. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 comprising a plurality of said air through-
2 openings distributed about said axis of rotation.

1 5. A housing arrangement as in claim 4 wherein said air through-openings are
2 arranged in circumferentially spaced groups.

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1 6. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said housing is cast metal.

1 7. A housing arrangement as in claim 1 wherein said housing is unbalanced prior to
2 assembling other components to said housing.

1 8. A housing arrangement as in claim 4 wherein said bottom comprises a web
2 separating said front edge of one of said openings from a rear edge of another one of
3 said openings, said web having a surface facing said interior and a surface facing away
4 from said interior, at least one of said surfaces being at an acute angle to a plane
5 orthogonal to said axis of rotation.

1 9. A friction clutch having a direction of rotation about an axis, said friction clutch
2 comprising a housing in the form of a cup having a bottom transverse to said axis and a
3 circumferential edge area defining an interior, said housing having at least one air
4 opening in said bottom, each said through-opening being bounded by a front edge and
5 a rear edge with respect to said direction of rotation, said front edge being axially offset
6 toward said interior with respect to said rear edge.

1 10. A friction clutch as in claim 9 further comprising a plurality of clutch disks.